



Vye House, 1790 Carrick Street

## LANDMARKS

# Vye bungalow one of few in city with all-stone walls

Victoria is well known for its wide range of styles and sizes of homes of character. While many of them are constructed of wood and stone, only a very small number have walls entirely of stone. These range from stately Craigdarroch Castle, the well-known landmark built for the Dunsmuirs between Fort and Rockland, to the modest (in comparison) Vye house on Carrick (called Fourth Street until 1927).

This California-style bungalow with typical low-pitched roof, has several interesting features, apart from the beautiful granite stonework. The recessed front gable is staggered because of the building projection; and there are small projections at the sides of the house; also, the two chimneys are built of granite.

The two inner pillars which once supported the edge of the roof at the front were removed earlier but the two matching stone bases remain. Rectangular framing above consists of square timbers neatly chamfered at the exposed ends, and all the bargeboards have distinctive, curved ends.

### Geoffrey Castle

The house, built around 1913, was for some years occupied by members of the Vye family, which started in Victoria when Alexander Vye and his wife, Margaret, came from New Brunswick in 1884. It was the intention of Vye to establish a lobster farm on the west coast of Vancouver Island. When he realized that lobsters do not flourish here, he decided to invest his capital in real estate, which included the acquisition of land in the Fraser Valley where the Canadian Pacific Railway put in a station named "Vye."

In the Victoria area, Alexander Vye purchased 105 acres of farmland which once belonged to Bishop Modeste Demers, who died in 1871. The Richmond farm, located between present-day Newton and Haultain streets, was split by Mount Tolmie (now Richmond) Road. Vye built a fine Italianate-style home which still

stands, well cared for, on Carrick Street. He lived until he died in 1933, in his 90th year.

The Vyes had five sons and a daughter. Each of the sons married, the father was a good bungalow on a portion of the farm (Vye was not a farmer). Garfield Vye, to marry, was a haulage contractor and was in much of the fill required to build the Hotel from the Mount Tolmie gravel pit. William was a dairy farmer and William was a local physician who, for many years, practiced in the B.C. Permanent Building. Another son, Dr. J.P. Vye, was a local physician who, for many years, practiced in the B.C. Permanent Building. Another son lived in Duncan.

The Vye stone bungalow, with its wall along the front property line, has a fresh appearance which stands out with the all-wood, two-storey Italianate house opposite, on the south side of Carrick Street.

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